

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06507 231604Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00

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O 231530Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5542

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 6507

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, BL

SUBJECT: TORRIJOS VISIT TO BOLIVIA

REF: PANAMA 6484

1. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PANAMA'S HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS, WILL VISIT BOLIVIA THIS FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCT. 25-27 PUBLISHED OCT. 23 IN LOCAL NEWS MEDIA. TORRIJOS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY: HIS WIFE RAQUEL; NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES, DARIO GONZALEZ PITY; FOREIGN MINISTER A.I. CARLOS OZORES; MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES, FERNANDO MANFREDO; MINISTER OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC POLICY, NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA; RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA, ROMULO ESCOBAR BETHANCOURT; DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK, RICARDO DE LA ESPRIELLA; BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA, JORGE VACA DIEZ; AND PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR TO BOLIVIA. PANAMANIAN NEWSPAPERMEN WILL ACCOMPANY THE PARTY.

2. TORRIJOS AND PARTY WILL ARRIVE SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA OCT. 25, AT 10:00 A.M. AFTER AN OVERNIGHT STOP IN LIMA. THEY WILL DEPART OCT. 27 AT 9:30 A.M.

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 06507 231604Z

TORRIJOS-BANZER MEETING WILL BE IN SANTA CRUZ RATHER

THAN LA PAZ BECAUSE OF FORMER'S LOWER ALTITUDE.

3. TORRIJOS WILL DECORATE BANZER WITH PANAMA'S ORDER OF BALBOA AND RECEIVE IN EXCHANGE ORDER OF THE CONDOR OF THE ANDES. THE TWO LEADERS WILL ISSUE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT WHOSE TWO MAJOR ITEMS WILL BE BOLIVIA'S SUPPORT FOR PANAMA ON CANAL ISSUE AND PANAMA'S SUPPORT FOR A BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

4. COMMENT: PANAMA HAS EXPRESSED FIRM "FRATERNAL" SUPPORT FOR A SOLUTION TO BOLIVIA'S LAND-LOCKED POSITION. THE QUESTION OF CORRIDORS, WHETHER IT BE BOLIVIA'S DESIRE TO GAIN ONE TO THE SEA, OR PANAMA'S ASPIRATION TO RID HERSELF OF THE CANAL ZONE "CORRIDOR" WHICH BISECTS HER STRIKES A RESPONSIVE CHORD HERE. BOLIVIA'S OUTLET IS CLASSED WITH BELIZE AND THE FALKLAND/MALVINAS ISLANDS AS IMPORTANT LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED. THE VISIT OF TORRIJOS, ACCOMPANIED BY SUCH A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION, PUBLICLY RECOGNIZES THAT STATUS. IN ADDITION, TORRIJOS WILL FEEL HE IS REPAYING PRESIDENT BANZER FOR THE LATTER'S WORDS OF SUPPORT TO PANAMA IN THE UNGA AND DURING HIS BRIEF STOPOVER HERE ON HIS WAY HOME FROM IT.
JORDEN

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